

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CANCELED)
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- 40. (CANCELED)

41. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system having a protocol architecture over an interface between nodes of the telecommunications system, wherein for a connection with a user equipment unit a protocol stack of the protocol architecture in the transport layer comprises:

a link layer protocol;

Internet Protocol on top of the link layer protocol;

UDP Protocol on top of the Internet Protocol;

wherein the system is arranged to exchange Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols with the Internet Protocol and the UDP Protocol are utilized in lieu of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols;

wherein the interface having the protocol architecture is one of: (1) an interface between a core network and a radio access network which carries circuit switched connections; (2) an interface between a radio network controller (RNC) and a base station; and (3) an interface between two radio network controllers (RNCs);

wherein the connection is carried as a circuit switched connection over a radio interface between the user equipment unit and the radio access network; and

wherein UDP port numbers of the UDP Protocol are used as connection identifiers.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, the Internet Protocol is immediately above the link layer protocol in the transport layer.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the connection is a circuit switched switched connection and the interface having the protocol architecture carries the connection as a circuit switched connection.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the link layer protocol is Ethernet protocol.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein in the Internet Protocol a sequence number is carried in one of an IP option field and a Ipv6 extension header, the sequence number being used for rearranging incoming IP datagrams.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the protocol stack of the protocol architecture further comprises, in a radio network layer, a frame handling protocol on top of the UDP Protocol.

47. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system having a protocol architecture over an interface between nodes of the telecommunications system, wherein for a connection with a user equipment unit a protocol stack of the protocol architecture in the transport layer comprises:

a link layer protocol;

Internet Protocol on top of the link layer protocol;

UDP Protocol on top of the Internet Protocol; and

RTP Protocol on top of the UDP Protocol, and

wherein the system is arranged to exchange Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols with the Internet Protocol, the UDP Protocol, and the RTP protocol are utilized in lieu of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols;

wherein the interface having the protocol architecture is between a radio access network and a core network and carries circuit switched connections;

wherein the connection is carried as a circuit switched connection over a radio interface between the user equipment unit and the radio access network; and

wherein in the RTP Protocol one synchronization source (SSRC) identifier is allocated to each circuit switched connection between the node in the radio access network and the node in the core network.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47, wherein the RTP Protocol compresses plural RTP packets in an IP datagram.

50. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a telecommunications system having a protocol architecture over an interface between nodes of the telecommunications system, the interface having the protocol architecture being one of: (1) an interface between a core network and a radio access network which carries circuit switched connections; (2) an interface between a radio network controller (RNC) and a base station; and (3) an interface between two radio network controllers (RNCs); the method comprising:

including in a protocol stack of the protocol architecture in the transport layer for a connection with a user equipment unit, the following:

a link layer protocol;

Internet Protocol on top of the link layer protocol;

UDP Protocol on top of the Internet Protocol;

using the protocol stack for replacing Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols conventionally employed as transport layer protocols over the interface;

wherein the connection is carried as a circuit switched connection over a radio interface between the user equipment unit and the radio access network; and

using UDP port numbers of the UDP Protocol as connection identifiers.

51. (CANCELED)

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54. (CANCELED)

55. (CANCELED)

56 (Previously Presented) A method of operating a telecommunications system having a protocol architecture over an interface between a radio access network and a core network which carries circuit switched connections, the method comprising:

including in a protocol stack of the protocol architecture in the transport layer for a connection with a user equipment unit, the following:

a link layer protocol;

Internet Protocol on top of the link layer protocol;

UDP Protocol on top of the Internet Protocol; and

RTP Protocol on top of the UDP Protocol;

using the protocol stack for replacing Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols conventionally employed as transport layer protocols over the interface;

wherein the connection is carried as a circuit switched connection over a radio interface between the user equipment unit and the radio access network; and

wherein in the RTP Protocol one synchronization source (SSRC) identifier is allocated to each circuit switched connection between the node in the radio access network and the node in the core network.

57. (CANCELED)

58. (CANCELED)

59. (New) A telecommunications signalling method for transporting packet data in a circuit switched connection between a user equipment and a radio access network, comprising the steps of:

exchanging Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol with Internet Protocol for each data packet;

exchanging ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocol with UDP protocol for each data packet;

using UDP port numbers of the UDP protocol as connection identifiers.

60. (New) A telecommunications signalling method for transporting packet data in a circuit switched connection between a user equipment and a radio access network, comprising the steps of:

 exchanging Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol with Internet Protocol for each data packet;

 exchanging ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocol with UDP protocol for each data packet;

 allocating one synchronization source (SSRC) in the RTP protocol to each circuit switched connection between the node in the radio access network and a node in a core network.

61. (New) A node in a telecommunications system having a protocol architecture over an interface to another node of the system, wherein a protocol stack of the protocol architecture in the transport layer comprises:

- a link layer protocol;

 Internet protocol (IP) on top of the link layer;

 UDP protocol on top of the Internet protocol;

 wherein the node is arranged to exchange Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols with the Internet protocol and the UDP protocol;

 wherein the interface is arranged to be carried in a circuit switched connection over a radio interface; and

 wherein UDP port numbers of the UDP protocol are used as connection identifiers.